

Ozum Yesiltas, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
Texas A&M University-Commerce
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Commerce, TX 75428

ozum.yesiltas@tamuc.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2014
Graduate Certificate: Middle East and Central Asian Studies
- M.S. Department of International Relations, Middle East Technical University, 2006
- M.S. European Studies Program, Middle East Technical University, 2005
- B.A. Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University, 2001

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2021 Visiting Scholar, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of California, Berkeley
- 2021 Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- 2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- 2014 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, St. Norbert College

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2022 Yesiltas, Ozum. *Rethinking State-Non-State Alliances: Change and Continuity in the U.S.-Kurdish Relationship*. Maryland; Lexington Books, Kurdish Societies, Politics, and International Relations Series.

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2022 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Understanding Rojava: A Critical Analysis of Representations of Kurdish Female Fighters in the U.S. Mainstream Media." *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*.
- 2021 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Rethinking State-Non-state Alliances: A Theoretical Analysis of the U.S.-Kurdish Relationship." *Kurdish Studies Journal* 9 (2): 189-204.
- 2018 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Taking Voluntariness Seriously: Legal Challenges Impeding the Syrian Refugees' Right of Return." *Midsouth Political Science Review* 19: 83-110.
- 2018 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Turkey and the Kurdistan Regional Government: Unlikely Allies?" *The Journal of Turkish Studies* 1 (1): 188-215.
- 2016 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Contested Notions of National Identity, Ethnic Movements and Democratization in Iran." *Studies of Transition States and Societies* 8 (1): 53-68.

Book Chapters

- 2019 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Continuity and Change in Syrian Kurdistan: The Rojava Revolution and Beyond," in Michael Gunter, David Romano and Mehmet Gürses (Eds.), *Kurds in the Middle East: Enduring Problems and New Dynamics* (pp. 129-147). Maryland: Lexington Books.
- 2016 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Turning Challenges into Opportunities: Discursive Formations of the Kurdish Question in Turkey," in F. Donelli, M. Ferez, A. Chiriatti (Eds.), *Modern Turkey: Opportunities and Challenges*. Mexico City: Anahuac University.
- 2015 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Democratization and Ethnic Conflict: Transformation of Turkey's Kurdish Question," in Michael Fonkem (Ed.), *Nationalism and Intra-State Conflicts in a Postcolonial World* (pp. 277-300). Maryland: Lexington Books.
- 2014 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Iraq, Arab Nationalism and Obstacles to Democratic Transition," in David Romano, Mehmet Gürses (Eds.), *Conflict, Democratization, and the Kurds in the Middle East: Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria* (pp. 41-57). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Book Reviews, Research Notes, Web-Based Publications

- 2020 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Gender Mainstreaming in Teaching International Relations," *Humanities and Social Sciences Online*, Teaching Roundtable XXI-39 on Teaching Gender in IR, May 1, 2020.
- 2019 Yesiltas, Ozum. "The Case for Re-Opening Turkey-Rojava Dialogue," *Washington Kurdish Institute Weekly Digest*, Washington Kurdish Institute, June 18, 2019.

2015 Yesiltas Ozum. *Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity*. Kamran Scot Aghaie, Afshin Marashi (Eds.) in *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 15 (1): 210-212.

Manuscripts in Progress

“Conceptions of a Feminist Nation in the Oppositional Agencies of RAWA and the PKK”

“Orientalism Interrupted: The Politics of Sexuality and Nationalist Movements in Kurdistan, Afghanistan and Iran” (book project)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2020 Global Human Rights Fellowship, Texas A&M University-Commerce
2020 Faculty Development Leave Award, Texas A&M University-Commerce
2020 Humanities, Social Sciences & Arts Research Grant, Texas A&M University-Commerce
2019 Summer Research Grant, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa
2019 Visiting Fellow, Washington Kurdish Institute
2019 Faculty Development Grant, Texas A&M University-Commerce
2018 Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association
2018 Centennial Center Visiting Scholar, American Political Science Association
2018 Faculty Development Grant, Texas A&M University-Commerce
2012 Dissertation Year Fellowship, Florida International University
2011 Dissertation Evidence Acquisition Fellowship, Florida International University
2007 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Florida International University
2006 Best Thesis Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Middle East Technical University
2001 Highest GPA Award, Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022 “Conceptions of a Feminist Nation in the Oppositional Agencies of RAWA and the PKK” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, November 10-13.

2020 “Kurdish Studies in the United States” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting Virtual Conference, October 5-17.

2019 “Rojava: A Feminist Revolution” Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, November 14-17.

2019 “Power from the Margins: The Case for a ‘Coherent’ U.S. Foreign Policy towards the Kurds” Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Washington, D.C., October 31-November 2.

2019 “Nationalism and Women’s Agency: Constructions of Feminist Nationalist Identity in the Kurdish Movements in Iraq and Syria” Serbest Kurdish Studies Conference, Evanston, IL, June 7-8.

- 2018 “Understanding Rojava: Western Representations of Kurdish Women Fighting ISIS” Middle East Studies Association, San Antonio, TX, November 15-18.
- 2018 “Taking Voluntariness Seriously: Legal Challenges Impeding the Syrian Refugees’ Right of Return” Association for the Study of Nationalities, New York, NY, May 3-5.
- 2018 “Spoilers of Peace and Dilemmas of American Foreign Policy in the Middle East” International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, April 4-7.
- 2017 “A Source of Hope among Horror: The Feminist Revolution in Rojava” National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 16-19.
- 2017 “Rethinking the ‘Right of Return’: An International Law Analysis of the Syrian Refugee Crisis” International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, February 22-25.
- 2016 “Pragmatism at Work or a Long-Term Shift? Understanding the Nuclear Deal between the U.S. and Iran” International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, March 16-19.
- 2016 “Nationalizing Iran: Counter-Discourses on Democracy and National identity” International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, March 16-19.
- 2015 “The Kurdish Spring?” International Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, February 18-21.
- 2014 “Pushing the Boundaries of Human Rights in the Middle East: Lessons from the Green Movement in Iran” International Studies Association, Toronto, Canada, March 26-29.
- 2013 “A Non-Arab Spring: Syria’s Kurdish Predicament” Peace Science Society-International Studies Association, Budapest, Hungary, June 27-29.
- 2013 “Reinterpreting Ethnic Nationalism and Democratization: The Kurdish Experience” International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, April 3-6.
- 2012 “The Role of Ethnic Movements in the Formation of a Democratic Iran” Middle East Studies Association, Denver, CO, November 17-20.
- 2012 “Co-existence versus Separation: Kurds as Transformative Actors in Turkey” Association for the Study of Nationalities, New York City, NY, April 19-21.
- 2012 “Rethinking the National Question: Anti-Statist Discourses within the Kurdish National Movement, 1990-2012” International Studies Association, San Diego, CA, April 1-4.
- 2012 “Turkish-Syrian Relations: What is Next for the Kurds in the Wake of the Syrian Uprising?” Florida Political Science Association, Tampa, FL, March 17.

- 2011 “Human Agency and the Shifting Focus of Security Thinking in the Middle East”
International Studies Association-West, Pasadena, CA, September 23-24.

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 “Power from the Margins: The Case for a ‘Coherent’ U.S. Foreign Policy towards the Kurds” Roundtable Discussion: U.S. Foreign Policy toward the Kurds and What’s Next in Syria, Washington Kurdish Institute, Washington, D.C., June 21.
- 2018 “Allies or Terrorists? Contradictions in the U.S. Foreign Policy towards the Kurds”
Brownbag Speaker Series, American Political Science Association, Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs, Washington D.C., June 27.
- 2016 “Bridging the Gap between the Haves and the Have-nots: A Critical Evaluation of the United Nations” Green Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, October 23.
- 2016 “Turkey in the Middle: Domestic and Foreign Perspectives on the Most Recent Events”
Global Studies Discussion Series, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, September 30.
- 2016 “A Panel Discussion on the Current World Refugee Crisis” Middle East Initiative-Center for Middle East Studies and Partnerships, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, March 9.
- 2015 “The ISIS Threat: The Complex War Raging in Iraq and Syria” St. Norbert College
Distinguished Lecture Series, Door County Auditorium, January 17.
- 2014 “Kurds and the Situation in the Middle East” Global Studies Discussion Series,
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, December 5.
- 2014 “Conflict and Transformation in the Middle East: The Kurds and the Rise of the Islamic State” Department of Sociology Brown Bag Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, November 19.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2017 “Oil Dependence and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East” Great Decisions Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, April 5.
- 2017 “Understanding Trump’s Executive Order on Immigration” Global Scholars Forum, St. Norbert College, February 16.
- 2016 “Masculinities for Jews and Other Non-Christian Others” Cassandra Voss Center Annual Masculinity Summit, St. Norbert College, November 3.

- 2016 “The Future of Kurdistan” Great Decisions Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, March 30.
- 2015 “Understanding the Iran Nuclear Deal” Global Scholars Third Annual Global Governance Panel, St. Norbert College, December 2.
- 2015 “The Paris Attacks: Making Sense of the Senseless” Center for International Education, St. Norbert College, November 18.
- 2015 “We Can’t Look Away: A Conversation about the World Refugee Crisis” Middle East Initiative-Norman Miller Center, St. Norbert College, November 12.
- 2015 “Women Fighters in Kurdish Parties: Freedom Fighters or Silent Symbols?” St. Norbert College Social Science Scholarship Series, November 5.
- 2015 “Syria’s Refugee Crisis” Great Decisions Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, February 25.
- 2015 “ISIS: What You Should Know about the Islamic State” Norman Miller Center, St. Norbert College, February 10.
- 2014 “Iraq and ISIS” Global Scholars Second Annual Global Governance Panel, St. Norbert College, November 19.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University-Commerce

United States Government
 Texas Government
 Principles of U.S. & Texas Government
 U.S. & Texas Government: Institutions and Policies
 Non-European Political Systems - The Middle East
 Theories of International Relations
 U.S. Foreign Policy
 Gender in International Relations
 Model Arab League
 Women in the Middle East
 U.S. Foreign Policy-graduate
 Proseminar in Comparative Politics-graduate
 Proseminar in International Relations-graduate
 Problems in International Relations-graduate
 Selected Topics in International Relations-graduate

St. Norbert College

Introduction to International Studies
International Relations Theory
Middle East Politics
Politics of Modern Iran
Global Political Extremism

Pedagogical Training

Certificate in Effective College Instruction, The Association of College and University Educators and The American Council on Education, 2021.

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to Profession

Book Manuscript Referee, SAGE Publishing, 2021
Book Manuscript Referee, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2019
Book Manuscript Referee, W. W. Norton & Company, 2019
Book Manuscript Referee, Cognella Academic Publishing, 2018
Book Manuscript Referee, Oxford University Press, 2015
Manuscript Referee, *Middle East Journal*
Manuscript Referee, *Studies of Transition States and Societies*
Manuscript Referee, *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*
Manuscript Referee, *Japanese Journal of Political Science*
Manuscript Referee, *Midsouth Political Science Review*
Secretary, Kurdish Studies Association
Advisory Council Member, Center for Middle East Studies & Partnerships, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay
Affiliate Fellow, Washington Kurdish Institute
Panel Organizer, "The State of Kurdish Studies" Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting Virtual Conference, October 5-17, 2020.

University Service

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Academic Committee Memberships
Faculty Senate Academic Life Committee
Faculty Senate Budget Committee
Faculty Development Leave Committee
Political Science Department Scholarship Committee
Political Science Department Curriculum Committee
Political Science Department Representative to the TAMUC Faculty Senate
CHSSA Faculty Advisory Group
Gender Studies Advisory Committee

Memberships in Campus Initiatives
Anti-Racist Reading Group
Global Human Rights Initiative

Campus Lectures

“Power from the Margins: The U.S. and the Kurds as a Case of State-Non-State Alliance”
Honors Colloquium Series, Texas A&M University-Commerce, October 12, 2020

“Syrian Refugees and Human Rights in 2018” Holocaust Days of Remembrance, Texas A&M University-Commerce, February 21, 2018.

“Understanding Rojava: Western Representations of Kurdish Women Fighting ISIS” Gender Studies Lecture Series, Texas A&M University-Commerce, February 20, 2018

Member of Master’s Thesis Committee

Christopher Michael Rowback, Department of History
Song Wang, Department of Political Science

Member of Honor’s Thesis Committee

Alexandra Corrales, Department of Political Science
Hannah Anderson, Department of Political Science
Carissa Carter, Department of Political Science

Member of PSCI 595 Non-Thesis Committee

David Gosbee, Department of Political Science
Egzon Krasniqi, Department of Political Science
Jeffrey Leachman, Department of Political Science
Rebecca Lynch, Department of Political Science
Matthew Markovitch, Department of Political Science
Dovlet Hudayberdiyev, Department of Political Science

Member of Search Committee

Department of History, Spring 2019
Department of Political Science, Spring 2019

Faculty Advisor (Assisting the Main Faculty Advisor, Dr. Robert Rodriguez)

Mock Organization of American States Program, Fall 2018

Panel Judge

TAMUC Annual Research Symposium, Spring 2019
TAMUC Annual Research Symposium, Spring 2022
TAMUC Federation Graduate Student Research Symposium, Spring 2022

Representative of Texas A&M University-Commerce, Department of Political Science

University of North Texas, McNair Conference Graduate Recruitment Fair, Spring 2019

Lecturer

Global Frontier Program, Texas A&M University Commerce, Summer 2019

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Kurdish Studies Association

International Studies Association

American Political Science Association

Association for the Study of Nationalities

Middle East Studies Association

Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa

National Women's Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Turkish: Native Speaker

English: Advanced reading, writing, speaking

Kurdish: Intermediate reading, writing, speaking